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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04719 170215Z

11
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /028 W
---------- 086094
R 170015Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6201
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4719

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, BEXP, AS, US
SUBJ: PROPOSED JOINT AUSTRALIA-U.S. BUSINESS COUNCIL

1. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON BACK-
GROUND OR CURRENT STATUS OF PROPOSAL, WHICH WE UNDER-
STAND ORIGINATED IN U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (COCUSA),
TO ESTABLISH AUSTRALIA-U.S. BUSINESS COUNCIL.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS ON OTHER MATTERS WITH EMBOFFS,
ROBERT PERKINS, CHAIRMAN OF APCAC, AND PAUL GIBSON, VICE
CHAIRMAN OF APCAC, HAVE ALLUDED TO FACT THAT SUCH A COUNCIL
IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND WAS PROPOSED TO USG REPRES-
ENTATIVES DURING RECENT U.S. CHAMBER ANNUAL MEETINGS IN
WASHINGTON.

3. DURING COURSE OF HIS VISIT, PAUL GIBSON GAVE US FOR
INFORMATION A COPY OF SIMILAR COCUSA DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR
FORMATION OF JOINT INDIA-U.S. BUSINESS COUNCIL. WE NOTE
THAT IN INDIA CASE PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL EMERGED FROM
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUB-COMMISSION OF OFFICIAL BILATERAL
JOINT COMMISSION. WE ASSUME THAT PROPOSAL RESPECTING
AUSTRALIA IS CONFINED TO A BUSINESS COUNCIL AND DOES NOT
INVOLVE ANY INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY. WE ARE NOT CLEAR,
HOWEVER, ON QUESTION OF WHETHER PROPOSAL MADE IN WASHINGTON
INVOLVES ANY TYPE OF USG OR GOA PARTICIPATION OR WHETHER IT
CONTEMPLATES SOLELY A PRIVATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE AT
BUSINESS INITIATIVE.

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RM EMBASSY WOULD FIND HELPFUL ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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CAN FURNISH ON BACKGROUND AND ON QUESTION OF WHETHER PROPOSAL VISUALIZES ANY USG PARTICIPATION, OR WHETHER IN FACT IT CALLS FOR ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT OR CONCURRENCE.

5. SUBJECT TO MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPECIFICS, WE ASSUME THAT DECISION ON WHETHER TO ESTABLISH SUCH A JOINT GROUP RESTS ENTIRELY WITH THE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED. THE VALUE OF SUCH A COUNCIL WOULD OBVIOUSLY DEPEND LARGELY UPON THE SKILL AND ENERGY WITH WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS CONDUCTED IT. IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR A CONSTRUCTIVE STEP, AND THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY A NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH A CLOSER LIAISON BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITIES MIGHT BE USEFUL.
GREEN

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